

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A latch for joining two parts to one another, ~~via, on the one hand, comprising:~~

\_\_\_\_\_ a hook possessing a curved end capable of engaging with a retaining member connected to ~~the~~ a first part, and, ~~on the other hand,~~ a main pin designed to be attached firmly to ~~the~~ a second part, ~~said latch comprising an operating part;~~

\_\_\_\_\_ a single operating member pivoting about an end pin situated on the hook at ~~the~~ an opposite end from the curved end of the ~~hook, and~~ hook; and

\_\_\_\_\_ an articulation ~~comprising including~~ a pair of compression links pivoting on the main pin and on an intermediate pin, ~~the latter pin located on the operating member, the intermediate pin~~ being positioned between the main pin and the end pin, ~~which latch is characterized in that~~

\_\_\_\_\_ wherein the hook is located between the operating member and the main pin, and ~~in that~~ at least one of the compression link ~~links~~ is provided with a guide means capable of contacting ~~that a~~ surface of the hook which is nearest the operating member during the opening of the latch.

2. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each guide means consists of a spur connected to its corresponding compression link.

3. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each guide means is housed in a recess formed in ~~that surface~~ the surface of the hook which is nearest the operating member .

4. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the recess is larger in an area ~~acting that acts~~ as a housing for the guide means at the end of the latch-opening operation.

5. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that,~~  
wherein in the locked position, the center of the main pin and the hook lie on either side of a line joining the center of the retaining member to the center of the intermediate pin.

6. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the hook is provided with a projection capable of partially covering the main pin in the locked position.

7. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that,~~  
wherein, in the locked position, the center of the main pin is positioned between the hook and a line joining the center of the retaining member to the center of the intermediate pin.

8. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that it~~  
further comprises a second pair of compression links pivoting on the intermediate pin and on the end pin.

9. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that it~~  
~~comprises only one pair of compression links, said~~ wherein the operating member ~~being is~~  
firmly attached to the intermediate pin.

10. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the operating member is divided into a main structure having ~~an a~~ a pivoting axis on  
~~which pivots an and an~~ end structure situated ~~at the at an end~~ opposite end from the end pin.

11. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein a stop-piece belonging to the main structure is capable of limiting the angular travel of the end structure.

12. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that,~~  
wherein, in the locked position, a spring keeps the end structure aligned with the main  
structure.

13. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the operating member comprises a window giving access to the hook from the  
outside.

14. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the hook has a bore that can be accessed from the outside and in which a through part  
can be housed, ~~which part can prevent preventing~~ the opening of said ~~the~~ latch.